

# ***Sending Gift Packages to . . .***

**\*DOC Exempt Letter On File\***

**U. S. S. R.**

## What Can Be Included in a Gift Package

### U. S. Export Control Regulations

U. S. export control regulations regarding the shipment of gift parcels abroad are described in a separate publication, "Sending Gifts to Foreign Countries, Summary of U. S. Export Regulations." It is necessary for you to obtain a copy of this circular on U. S. export regulations in order to have complete information on the various regulations affecting the sending of gift parcels abroad. This circular may be obtained from any field office of the Department of Commerce.

### What You Should Know About Soviet Import Regulations

Gift parcels sent to individual recipients in the U.S.S.R. require customs clearance and the payment of import duties. All articles contained in such parcels are subject to an import duty payable at the maximum rate called for by the Soviet customs tariff schedule.

A gift parcel sent to an individual in the Soviet Union directly through the parcel-post service of U. S. Post Office can be redeemed by the addressee only upon the payment of all customs duties and other charges levied on such parcels by the Soviet Government.

A list of types and quantities of articles allowed by the Soviet Government to an individual recipient in the U.S.S.R. in the course of 1 year without special permit may be found in the Directory of International Mail (Sections U.S.S.R.), available at all U. S. Post Offices.

Parcels containing articles in excess of the quantities specified on that list will be delivered to the addressee only upon the payment of an additional charge (5 times the usual customs duty) over and above the regular fee.

In case of refusal by the addressee to pay the import duty upon receipt of a parcel sent through the Post Office, such parcel will be returned to the United States and the sender will be charged with the return postage fee and other charges incurred.

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
SINCLAIR WEEKS, Secretary

**BUREAU OF FOREIGN COMMERCE**  
Loring K. Macy, Director

- 2 -

### Shipment of Duty-Prepaid Parcels

Neither the Post Office nor any other agency of the United States Government can collect customs duties or any other charges levied by the U.S.S.R. on gift parcels sent to residents of that country.

If the sender in the United States knows that the addressee in the Soviet Union will find it difficult to pay the customs duties levied on parcels shipped through the post office, an alternate method for the shipment of parcels duty-prepaid is available through the services of some private firms authorized by contract with the official tourist organization of the U.S.S.R. to accept parcels with all Soviet duties and charges prepaid by the sender. Detailed information, including circulars, on the cost of this type of shipment may be obtained from these firms directly upon request.

#### SOME AMERICAN FIRMS EQUIPPED TO SHIP DUTY-PREPAID PACKAGES TO THE U.S.S.R.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Central Parcel Service, Inc.<br>Room 702<br>220 S. State Street<br>Chicago 4, Illinois<br>Telephone: Wabash 2-9354-9355 | 3. Parcels to Russia, Inc.<br>391 Eastern Parkway<br>Brooklyn 16, New York<br>Telephone: Main 2-1771-8811 |
| 2. Globe Travel Service<br>716 Walnut Street<br>Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania<br>Telephone: Lombard 3-6977                  | 4. Union Tours<br>15 West 36th Street<br>New York 18, New York<br>Telephone: Longacre 4-3330              |

### What You Should Know About Packaging Regulations

Gift parcels may be sent by parcel post (ordinary or air parcel post), or by air express.

If the package is sent by parcel post it must not exceed 22 pounds (10 kilograms) in weight, with a maximum length of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet or a maximum combined length and girth of 6 feet. Parcel-post packages may be 4 feet long provided that parcels over 44 and not over 46 inches in length do not exceed 20 inches in girth, and parcels over 46 inches and up to 4 feet in length do not exceed 16 inches in girth.

Detailed information concerning dimensional limitations and other postal regulations can be obtained from the local U. S. Post Office.

### What the Recipient Must Do

In general, parcels containing most types of food, clothing, yard goods, necessary household articles, medicines, and books sent in reasonable quantities and destined for consumption by the recipient or the members of his household, are license-free.

- 3 -

How Medicine May Be Sent to the U.S.S.R.

Medicinal and pharmaceutical preparations are admitted without restriction when in doses or prescribed quantities, not exceeding a yearly quota of 2 pounds gross, for any addressee under the care of a doctor of the Public Health Ministry of the U.S.S.R. Otherwise, the addressee is required to produce an import permit from the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade.

Medicine may be sent to the U.S.S.R. through (a) the U. S. Post Office; (b) special shipping firms accepting duty-prepaid parcels. The shipment of certain medicinals, listed under U. S. Export Control Regulations, is limited to a retail value of \$25 per gift parcel.

Through the U. S. Post Office

Medicine sent in a parcel may be shipped, like any other article, via the parcel-post service of the U. S. Post Office, subject to the payment of duty by the recipient.

Through Shipping Firms, Duty-Prepaid

Detailed information on regulations and limitations governing the shipment of parcels to the U.S.S.R. should be obtained directly from these firms.

Duty-prepaid packages not exceeding 18 ounces in weight containing medicines may be sent to the U.S.S.R. in letter packages (surface or air), at the letter rate of postage, and will be delivered on condition that the prescription of the treating physician in the U.S.S.R. is presented by the addressee at the time of delivery. Only the quantities of medicines mentioned in the prescription will be delivered.

What the Recipient Must Pay

In the case of parcels sent through the Post Office, the addressee in the U.S.S.R. is required to pay import duties in rubles, usually on a specific basis, i.e., a fixed number of rubles per kilogram (2.2 pounds). The official duty rates on clothing range between 300 and 400 rubles per kilogram; hosiery, 500 rubles per kilogram. Duty amounts on food items are somewhat lower. Tobacco and tobacco products pay 100 rubles per kilogram.

In the case of duty-prepaid parcels sent through the shipping firms, Soviet import duties on food products and soaps are payable in dollars per pound and may vary from 6 cents on a pound of household soap to 85 cents on a pound of tea. Under this method of shipment, duty on other types of merchandise is ad valorem, i.e. according to the known cost of the article. Thus, for example, duty on new clothing is 100%; used clothing, 80%; hosiery, 75%; tobacco and tobacco products, 60%.

- 4 -

How Money Transfers Can Be Made

Money remittances may be sent to residents in the U.S.S.R. through a number of U. S. banking and travel organizations, including the Chase National Bank, the National City Bank, the Amalgamated Trust and Savings Bank (Chicago, Illinois), the American Express Company, etc. Such remittances will, of course, be paid out to the addressee in rubles at the official exchange rate established by the Soviet Government, namely 4 rubles to the dollar. The purchasing power of the ruble is relatively low, as indicated by the fact that it takes 4 rubles to buy one pound of sugar, 8 rubles a dozen eggs, and 12 rubles to buy a pound of butter.

September 1955

Price 10 cents

COMM-DC-36412